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**From:** CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US

**Sent:** Sat 5/28/2011 12:19:47 AM

**Subject:** EPA Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Intergovernmental Technical Team

To: Tribal Government Representatives of the EPA Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Intergovernmental Technical Team:

Hello,

I would like to thank you for serving on the Intergovernmental Technical team. Your input on the assessment is very important to the EPA and we appreciate your time and effort.

My name is Phil North. I am EPA's lead for the technical portion of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. I have been working for EPA in Alaska for the past 22 years. Most of that time was spent reviewing large and small development projects, including most mines in the state. My previous career was as crew on salmon tenders all around Alaska and crab fishing in the Bering Sea. In the late 70s and early 80s I spend the early part of each summer on the M/V Labrador, in Naknek, waiting for the fish to come in.

After several delays EPA is ready to convene the Intergovernmental Technical Team. We would like to meet with everyone on the team who is available on June 29 and 30. Up front I want to apologize for the date. We know that late June is not a good time to leave Bristol Bay for a meeting in Anchorage. However, because of delays we find ourselves in this position. We want to keep moving on this process so that we can get a draft document to share with the public by Fall.

Prior to the meeting we will distribute an outline of the Watershed Assessment for your review. We will also distribute a draft summary of the information that we have gathered so far. These are for review only by the intergovernmental team. A public draft will be released when we have incorporated agency input. We will start the meeting by explaining our motivations, authorities and constraints in conducting the Watershed Assessment. We will also provide an update on the research completed to date and a description of work yet to be completed.

We would like to get feedback from you on any topics we may have missed or information you or others have that may be helpful. Our work is being completed by a mix of EPA and other federal agency staff and a contractor, NatureServe. NatureServe works in partnership with the University of Alaska, who is completing much of the research.

Other member of the Intergovernmental Technical Team include representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

We understand that this is not a convenient time for you but we hope you can attend this session to learn more about EPA's Watershed Assessment and to provide us feedback and information. I would appreciate knowing if you will be able to attend the meeting June 29 and 30.

If you have any questions about the intergovernmental review team please let me know. More details about the meeting location and materials will be sent soon.

Thank you,  
Phil North

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